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the science ; but this field has been so well worked, and is so full of workers, that there is little room for any new comer to add much to our knowledge in this department, while the other divisions of the science offer unlimited range for delightful and profitable investigation. Whether taking his healthful walk in the country after rarer plants, or confined to the weeds of his doorway, the student of vegetable biology can always find subjects of interest. If a few more of our able investigators would disclose to outsiders their methods of research, so as to set the current of study in that direction, they would be doing good service. We heartily thank Prof. Biscoe for his example of honestly thorough work in a somewhat neglected field.

§ 29. **Publications.**—The *Naturalist* for May is unusually well supplied with botanical matter. Prof. Biscoe's article on Duckweed we have elsewhere noticed. Prof. Watson describes some new plants of Arizona.—*Silliman's Journal* contains, with other notes of interest, obituary notices of Curtis, Mohl, and others. A biographical sketch of Dr. Torrey is promised for the June number.—*Archives of Science*, Vol. I., No. 6, continues the list of flowering plants of Vermont, by Prof. Perkins, and of the Cryptogams, by Charles C. Frost.—The *Popular Science Monthly* for May has an interesting article on the freezing of plants and animals, from the German of Fr. Mohr.—In the *Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy*, 1870-72, Dr. Lapham discusses the classification of plants in the light of Geology.

§ 30. **Motion of Fovillæ** (*Pollen contents*).—We extract the following paragraph from the note of a friend : "I was recently examining the pollen of the common Calla, so called, (*Richardia Ethiopica*). The granules are unusually large, and are admirable for study in several respects. They show, with unusual distinctness, the double character of the coat. The fovillæ shrink away to the centre, leaving the margin all around the granule transparent. I had placed some of the pollen upon the slide with a drop of water. Soon I found some of the granules burst, and the contents poured out like meal from a sack. But in a moment it was 'all alive.' Each particle of the fovillæ went whirling around and twisting away, now on its own hook, now bowing to its neighbor, and aggregating with others similar. The whole field was covered with a cloud of busy particles, moving about with a sort of infusorial motion, but much slower. This lasted for an hour or two. If the granules do not burst by the absorption of water, they may be crushed in the compressorium, or simply with a knife-blade or similar instrument."

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Local Herbarium, 3, E. 33d St.—Editor, 224, E. 10th St.

The Club meets regularly the last Tuesday of the month in the Herbarium, Columbia College, at 7½ P.M.